

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4103

To extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2004

Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CRANE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. DUNN, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. PAYNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “AGOA Acceleration
5 Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The African Growth and Opportunity Act
9 (in this section and section 3 referred to as “the

1 Act”) has helped to spur economic growth and bol-
2 ster economic reforms in the countries of sub-Saha-
3 ran Africa and has fostered stronger economic ties
4 between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the
5 United States; as a result, exports from the United
6 States to sub-Saharan Africa reached record levels
7 after the enactment of the Act, while exports from
8 sub-Saharan Africa to the United States have in-
9 creased considerably.

10 (2) The Act’s eligibility requirements have rein-
11 forced democratic values and the rule of law, and
12 have strengthened adherence to internationally rec-
13 ognized worker rights in eligible sub-Saharan Afri-
14 can countries.

15 (3) The Act has helped to bring about substan-
16 tial increases in foreign investment in sub-Saharan
17 Africa, especially in the textile and apparel sectors,
18 where tens of thousands of new jobs have been cre-
19 ated.

20 (4) As a result of the Agreement on Textiles
21 and Apparel of the World Trade Organization, under
22 which quotas maintained by WTO member countries
23 on textile and apparel products end on January 1,
24 2005, sub-Saharan Africa’s textile and apparel in-
25 dustry will be severely challenged by countries whose

1 industries are more developed and have greater ca-
2 pacity, economies of scale, and better infrastructure.

3 (5) The underdeveloped physical and financial
4 infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa continues to
5 discourage investment in the region.

6 (6) Regional integration establishes a founda-
7 tion on which sub-Saharan African countries can co-
8 ordinate and pursue policies grounded in African in-
9 terests and history to achieve sustainable develop-
10 ment.

11 (7) Expanded trade because of Act has im-
12 proved fundamental economic conditions within sub-
13 Saharan Africa. The Act has helped to create jobs
14 in the poorest region of the world, and most sub-Sa-
15 haran African countries have sought to take advan-
16 tage of the opportunities provided by the Act.

17 (8) Agricultural biotechnology holds promise for
18 helping solve global food security and human health
19 crises in Africa and, according to recent studies, has
20 made contributions to the protection of the environ-
21 ment by reducing the application of pesticides, re-
22 ducing soil erosion, and creating an environment
23 more hospitable to wildlife.

24 (9)(A) One of the greatest challenges facing Af-
25 rican countries continues to be the HIV/AIDS epi-

1 demic, which has infected as many as one out of
2 every four people in some countries, creating tre-
3 mendous social, political, and economic costs. Afri-
4 can countries need continued United States financial
5 and technical assistance to combat this epidemic.

6 (B) More awareness and involvement by govern-
7 ments are necessary. Countries like Uganda, recog-
8 nizing the threat of HIV/AIDS, have boldly attacked
9 it through a combination of education, public aware-
10 ness, enhanced medical infrastructure and resources,
11 and greater access to medical treatment. An effec-
12 tive HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment strategy
13 involves all of these steps.

14 (10) African countries continue to need trade
15 capacity assistance to establish viable economic ca-
16 pacity, a well-grounded rule of law, and efficient
17 government practices.

18 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

19 The Congress supports—

20 (1) a continued commitment to increase trade
21 between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa
22 and increase investment in sub-Saharan Africa to
23 the benefit of workers, businesses, and farmers in
24 the United States and in sub-Saharan Africa, in-
25 cluding by developing innovative approaches to en-

1 courage development and investment in sub-Saharan
2 Africa;

3 (2) a reduction of tariff and nontariff barriers
4 and other obstacles to trade between the countries of
5 sub-Saharan Africa and the United States, with par-
6 ticular emphasis on reducing barriers to trade in
7 emerging sectors of the economy that have the
8 greatest potential for development;

9 (3) development of sub-Saharan Africa's phys-
10 ical and financial infrastructure;

11 (4) international efforts to fight HIV/AIDS,
12 malaria, tuberculosis, other infectious diseases, and
13 serious public health problems;

14 (5) many of the aims of the New Partnership
15 for African Development (NEPAD), which include—

16 (A) reducing poverty and increasing eco-
17 nomic growth;

18 (B) promoting peace, democracy, security,
19 and human rights;

20 (C) promoting African integration by deep-
21 ening linkages between African countries and
22 by accelerating Africa's economic and political
23 integration into the rest of the world;

24 (D) attracting investment, debt relief, and
25 development assistance;

1 (E) promoting trade and economic diver-
2 sification;

3 (F) broadening global market access for
4 United States and African exports;

5 (G) improving transparency, good govern-
6 ance, and political accountability;

7 (H) expanding access to social services,
8 education, and health services with a high pri-
9 ority given to addressing HIV/AIDS, malaria,
10 tuberculosis, other infectious diseases, and
11 other public health problems;

12 (I) promoting the role of women in social
13 and economic development by reinforcing edu-
14 cation and training and by assuring their par-
15 ticipation in political and economic arenas; and

16 (J) building the capacity of governments in
17 sub-Saharan Africa to set and enforce a legal
18 framework, as well as to enforce the rule of law;

19 (6) negotiation of reciprocal trade agreements
20 between the United States and sub-Saharan African
21 countries, with the overall goal of expanding trade
22 across all of sub-Saharan Africa;

23 (7) the President seeking to negotiate, with in-
24 terested eligible sub-Saharan African countries, bi-
25 lateral trade agreements that provide investment op-

1 portunities, in accordance with section 2102(b)(3) of
2 the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3802(b)(3));

3 (8) efforts by the President to negotiate with
4 the member countries of the Southern African Customs
5 Union in order to provide the opportunity to
6 deepen and make permanent the benefits of the Act
7 while giving the United States access to the markets
8 of these African countries for United States goods
9 and services, by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers,
10 strengthening intellectual property protection,
11 improving transparency, establishing general dispute
12 settlement mechanisms, and investor-state and state-
13 to-state dispute settlement mechanisms in investment;
14

15 (9) a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement
16 with the Southern African Customs Union,
17 covering all products and sectors, in order to mature
18 the economic relationship between sub-Saharan African
19 countries and the United States and because
20 such an agreement would deepen United States economic
21 and political ties to the region, lend momentum to United
22 States development efforts, encourage greater United States
23 investment, and promote regional integration and economic
24 growth;

1 (10) regional integration among sub-Saharan
2 African countries and business partnerships between
3 United States and African firms; and

4 (11) economic diversification in sub-Saharan
5 African countries and expansion of trade beyond tex-
6 tiles and apparel.

7 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON RECIPROCITY AND RE-**
8 **GIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.**

9 It is the sense of the Congress that—

10 (1) the preferential market access opportunities
11 for eligible sub-Saharan African countries will be
12 complemented and enhanced if those countries are
13 implementing actively and fully, consistent with any
14 remaining applicable phase-in periods, their obliga-
15 tions under the World Trade Organization, including
16 obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related
17 Aspects of Intellectual Property, the Agreement on
18 the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Meas-
19 ures, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Invest-
20 ment Measures, as well as the other agreements de-
21 scribed in section 101(d) of the Uruguay Round
22 Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d));

23 (2) eligible sub-Saharan African countries
24 should participate in and support mutual trade liber-
25 alization in ongoing negotiations under the auspices

1 of the World Trade Organization, including by mak-
2 ing reciprocal commitments with respect to improv-
3 ing market access for industrial and agricultural
4 goods, and for services, recognizing that such com-
5 mitments may need to reflect special and differential
6 treatment for developing countries;

7 (3) some of the most pernicious trade barriers
8 against exports by developing countries are the trade
9 barriers maintained by other developing countries;
10 therefore, eligible sub-Saharan African countries will
11 benefit from the reduction of trade barriers in other
12 developing countries, especially in developing coun-
13 tries that represent some of the greatest potential
14 markets for African goods and services; and

15 (4) all countries should make sanitary and
16 phytosanitary decisions on the basis of sound
17 science.

18 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERPRETATION OF TEX-**

19 **TILE AND APPAREL PROVISIONS OF AGOA.**

20 It is the sense of the Congress that the executive
21 branch, particularly the Committee for the Implementa-
22 tion of Textile Agreements (CITA), the Bureau of Cus-
23 toms and Border Protection of the Department of Home-
24 land Security, and the Department of Commerce, should
25 interpret, implement, and enforce the provisions of section

1 112 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, relating
2 to preferential treatment of textile and apparel articles,
3 broadly in order to expand trade by maximizing opportuni-
4 ties for imports of such articles from eligible sub-Saharan
5 African countries.

6 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION.**

7 In this Act, the term “eligible sub-Saharan African
8 country” means an eligible sub-Saharan African country
9 under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

10 **SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPOR-**
11 **TUNITY ACT.**

12 (a) GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.—Sec-
13 tion 506B of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466b)
14 is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2015”.

15 (b) APPAREL ARTICLES.—(1) Section 112(b)(1) of
16 the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C.
17 3721(b)(1)) is amended by striking “(including” and in-
18 serting “or both (including”.

19 (2) Section 112(b)(3) of the African Growth and Op-
20 portunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721 (b)(3)) is amended—

21 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

22 (A)—

23 (i) by striking “either in the United States
24 or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African
25 countries” each place it appears and inserting

1 “in the United States or one or more bene-
2 ficiary sub-Saharan African countries or former
3 beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, or
4 both”; and

5 (ii) by striking “subject to the following:”
6 and inserting “whether or not the apparel arti-
7 cles are also made from any of the fabrics, fab-
8 ric components formed, or components knit-to-
9 shape described in paragraph (1) or (2) (unless
10 the apparel articles are made exclusively from
11 any of the fabrics, fabric components formed, or
12 components knit-to-shape described in para-
13 graph (1) or (2)), subject to the following.”;
14 and

15 (B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and
16 inserting the following:

17 “(A) LIMITATIONS ON BENEFITS.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Preferential treat-
19 ment under this paragraph shall be ex-
20 tended in the 1-year period beginning Oc-
21 tober 1, 2003, and in each of the 11 suc-
22 ceeding 1-year periods, to imports of ap-
23 parel articles in an amount not to exceed
24 the applicable percentage of the aggregate
25 square meter equivalents of all apparel ar-

1 ties imported into the United States in
2 the preceding 12-month period for which
3 data are available.

4 “(ii) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For
5 purposes of this subparagraph, the term
6 ‘applicable percentage’ means—

7 “(I) 4.747 percent for the 1-year
8 period beginning October 1, 2003, in-
9 creased in each of the 5 succeeding 1-
10 year periods by equal increments, so
11 that for the 1-year period beginning
12 October 1, 2007, the applicable per-
13 centage does not exceed 7 percent;
14 and

15 “(II) for each succeeding 1-year
16 period until September 30, 2015, not
17 to exceed 7 percent.

18 “(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR LESSER DEVEL-
19 OPED COUNTRIES.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Preferential treat-
21 ment under this paragraph shall be ex-
22 tended through September 30, 2007, for ap-
23 parel articles wholly assembled, or knit-to-
24 shape and wholly assembled, or both, in
25 one or more lesser developed beneficiary

1 sub-Saharan African countries, regardless
2 of the country of origin of the fabric or the
3 yarn used to make such articles, in an
4 amount not to exceed the applicable per-
5 centage of the aggregate square meter
6 equivalents of all apparel articles imported
7 into the United States in the preceding 12-
8 month period for which data are available.

9 “(ii) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For
10 purposes of the subparagraph, the term
11 ‘applicable percentage’ means—

12 “(I) 2.3571 percent for the 1-
13 year period beginning October 1,
14 2003, the 1-year period beginning Oc-
15 tober 1, 2004, and the 1-year period
16 beginning October 1, 2005; and

17 “(II) 1.17855 percent for the 1-
18 year period beginning October 1,
19 2006.

20 “(iii) LESSER DEVELOPED BENE-
21 FICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUN-
22 TRY.—For purposes of this subparagraph,
23 the term ‘lesser developed beneficiary sub-
24 Saharan African country’ means—

1 “(I) a beneficiary sub-Saharan
2 African country that had a per capita
3 gross national product of less than
4 \$1,500 in 1998, as measured by the
5 International Bank for Reconstruction
6 and Development;

7 “(II) Botswana; and

8 “(III) Namibia.”.

9 (3) Section 112(b)(5)(A) of the African Growth and
10 Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(5)(A)) is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Apparel articles that
13 are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or oth-
14 erwise assembled in one or more beneficiary
15 sub-Saharan African countries, to the extent
16 that apparel articles of such fabrics or yarns
17 would be eligible for preferential treatment,
18 without regard to the source of the fabrics or
19 yarns, under Annex 401 to the NAFTA.”.

20 (c) HANDLOOMED, HANDMADE, FOLKLORE ARTI-
21 CLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS.—Section
22 112(b)(6) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19
23 U.S.C. 3721(b)(6)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(6) HANDLOOMED, HANDMADE, FOLKLORE
25 ARTICLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A handloomed, hand-
2 made, folklore article or an ethnic printed fab-
3 ric of a beneficiary sub-Saharan African coun-
4 try or countries that is certified as such by the
5 competent authority of such beneficiary country
6 or countries. For purposes of this section, the
7 President, after consultation with the bene-
8 ficiary sub-Saharan African country or coun-
9 tries concerned, shall determine which, if any,
10 particular textile and apparel goods of the coun-
11 try (or countries) shall be treated as being
12 handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles or
13 an ethic printed fabric.

14 “(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR ETHNIC PRINT-
15 ED FABRIC.—Ethnic printed fabrics qualified
16 under this paragraph are—

17 “(i) fabrics containing a selvedge on
18 both edges, having a width of less than 50
19 inches, classifiable under subheading
20 5208.52.30 or 5208.52.40 of the Har-
21 monized Tariff Schedule of the United
22 States;

23 “(ii) of the type that contains designs,
24 symbols, and other characteristics of Afri-
25 can prints—

1 “(I) normally produced for and
2 sold on the indigenous African mar-
3 ket; and

4 “(II) normally sold in Africa by
5 the piece as opposed to being tailored
6 into garments before being sold in in-
7 digenous African markets;

8 “(iii) printed, including waxed, in one
9 or more eligible beneficiary sub-Saharan
10 countries; and

11 “(iv) fabrics formed in the United
12 States, from yarns formed in the United
13 States, or from fabric formed in one or
14 more beneficiary sub-Saharan African
15 country from yarn originating in either the
16 United States or one or more beneficiary
17 sub-Saharan African countries.”.

18 (d) REGIONAL AND U.S. SOURCES.—Section
19 112(b)(7) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19
20 U.S.C. 3721(b)(7)) is amended by inserting “or former
21 beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” after “and one
22 or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” each
23 place it appears.

24 (e) SPECIAL RULES.—

1 (1) COLLARS AND CUFFS.—Section 112(d) of
2 the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C.
3 3721(d)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(3) COLLARS AND CUFFS.—An article other-
6 wise eligible for preferential treatment under this
7 section will not be ineligible for such treatment be-
8 cause the article contains any collars or cuffs (cut or
9 knit-to-shape) that do not meet the requirements set
10 forth in subsection (b), regardless of the country of
11 origin of such collars or cuffs.”.

12 (2) DE MINIMIS RULE.—Section 112(d)(2) of
13 the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C.
14 3721(d)(2)) is amended by inserting “or former ben-
15 eficiary sub-Saharan African countries” after “coun-
16 tries”.

17 (f) DEFINITIONS.—Section 112(f) of the African
18 Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(f)) is
19 amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(4) FORMER SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUN-
21 TRY.—The term ‘former sub-Saharan African coun-
22 try’ mean a country that was designated as a bene-
23 ficiary sub-Saharan African country after the enact-
24 ment of this Act, but thereafter ceased to be such
25 a beneficiary sub-Saharan country by reason of its

1 entering into a free trade agreement with the United
2 States.”.

3 **SEC. 8. ENTRIES OF CERTAIN APPAREL ARTICLES PURSU-**
4 **ANT TO THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPOR-**
5 **TUNITY ACT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514 of
7 the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1514) or any other pro-
8 vision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall liquidate
9 or reliquidate as free of duty and free of any quantitative
10 restrictions, limitations, or consultation levels entries of
11 articles described in subsection (d) made on or after Octo-
12 ber 1, 2000, and before the date of the enactment of this
13 Act.

14 (b) REQUESTS.—Liquidation or reliquidation may be
15 made under subsection (a) with respect to an entry de-
16 scribed in subsection (d) only if a request therefor is filed
17 with the Secretary of the Treasury within 90 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act and the request con-
19 tains sufficient information to enable the Secretary to lo-
20 cate the entry or reconstruct the entry if it cannot be lo-
21 cated.

22 (c) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED.—Any amounts
23 owed by the United States pursuant to the liquidation or
24 reliquidation of any entry under subsection (a) shall be

1 paid not later than 180 days after the date of such liquida-
2 tion or reliquidation.

3 (d) ENTRIES.—The entries referred to in subsection
4 (a) are entries of apparel articles that meet the require-
5 ments of section 112(b) of the African Growth and Oppor-
6 tunity Act (as amended by section 3108 of the Trade Act
7 of 2002 and this Act).

8 **SEC. 9. DEVELOPMENT STUDY AND CAPACITY BUILDING.**

9 (a) REPORTS.—The President shall, by not later than
10 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, conduct
11 a study on each eligible sub-Saharan African country,
12 that—

13 (1) identifies sectors of the economy of that
14 country with the greatest potential for growth, in-
15 cluding through export sales;

16 (2) identifies barriers, both domestically and
17 internationally, that are impeding growth in such
18 sectors; and

19 (3) makes recommendations on how the United
20 States Government and the private sector can pro-
21 vide technical assistance to that country to assist in
22 dismantling such barriers and in promoting invest-
23 ment in such sectors.

24 (b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Presi-
25 dent shall disseminate information in each study con-

1 ducted under subsection (a) to the appropriate United
2 States agencies for the purpose of implementing rec-
3 ommendations on the provision of technical assistance and
4 in identifying opportunities for United States investors,
5 businesses, and farmers.

6 **SEC. 10. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO**
7 **SUPPORT INCREASING TRADE CAPACITY AND**
8 **ECOTOURISM.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

10 (1) Ecotourism, which consists of—

11 (A) responsible and sustainable travel and
12 visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas
13 in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and
14 any accompanying cultural features, both past
15 and present) and animals, including species
16 that are rare or endangered,

17 (B) promotion of conservation and provi-
18 sion for beneficial involvement of local popu-
19 lations, and

20 (C) visitation designed to have low negative
21 impact upon the environment,
22 is expected to expand 30 percent globally over the
23 next decade.

24 (2) Ecotourism will increase trade capacity by
25 sustaining otherwise unsustainable infrastructure,

1 such as road, port, water, energy, and telecommuni-
2 cation development.

3 (3) According to the United States Department
4 of State and the United Nations Environment Pro-
5 gramme, sustainable tourism, such as ecotourism,
6 can be an important part of the economic develop-
7 ment of a region, especially a region with natural
8 and cultural protected areas.

9 (4) Sub-Saharan Africa enjoys an international
10 comparative advantage in ecotourism because it fea-
11 tures extensive protected areas that host a variety of
12 ecosystems and traditional cultures that are major
13 attractions for nature-oriented tourism.

14 (5) National parks and reserves in sub-Saharan
15 Africa should be considered a basis for regional de-
16 velopment, involving communities living within and
17 adjacent to them and, given their strong inter-
18 national recognition, provide an advantage in
19 ecotourism marketing and promotion.

20 (6) Desert areas in sub-Saharan Africa rep-
21 resent complex ecotourism attractions, showcasing
22 natural, geological, and archaeological features, and
23 nomad and other cultures and traditions.

24 (7) Many natural zones in sub-Saharan Africa
25 cross the political borders of several countries; there-

1 fore, transboundary cooperation is fundamental for
2 all types of ecotourism development.

3 (8) The commercial viability of ecotourism is
4 enhanced when small and medium enterprises, par-
5 ticularly microenterprises, successfully engage with
6 the tourism industry in sub-Saharan Africa.

7 (9) Adequate capacity building is an essential
8 component of ecotourism development if local com-
9 munities are to be real stakeholders that can sustain
10 an equitable approach to ecotourism management.

11 (10) Ecotourism needs to generate local com-
12 munity benefits by utilizing sub-Saharan Africa's
13 natural heritage, parks, wildlife reserves, and other
14 protected areas that can play a significant role in
15 encouraging local economic development by sourcing
16 food and other locally produced resources.

17 (b) ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—The President
18 shall develop and implement policies to—

19 (1) encourage the development of infrastructure
20 projects that will help to increase trade capacity and
21 a sustainable ecotourism industry in eligible sub-Sa-
22 haran African countries;

23 (2) encourage and facilitate transboundary co-
24 operation among sub-Saharan African countries in
25 order to facilitate trade;

1 (3) encourage the provision of technical assist-
 2 ance to eligible sub-Saharan African countries to es-
 3 tablish and sustain adequate trade capacity develop-
 4 ment; and

5 (4) encourage micro-, small-, and medium-sized
 6 enterprises in eligible sub-Saharan African countries
 7 to participate in the ecotourism industry.

8 **SEC. 11. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRANSPORTATION,**
 9 **ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, AND TELECOMMUNI-**
 10 **CATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.**

11 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

12 (1) In order to increase exports from, and trade
 13 among, eligible sub-Saharan African countries,
 14 transportation systems in those countries must be
 15 improved to increase transport efficiencies and lower
 16 transport costs.

17 (2) Vibrant economic growth requires a devel-
 18 oped telecommunication and energy infrastructure.

19 (3) Sub-Saharan Africa is rich in exportable ag-
 20 ricultural goods, but development of this industry re-
 21 mains stymied because of an underdeveloped infra-
 22 structure.

23 (b) ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—In order to en-
 24 hance trade with Africa and to bring the benefits of trade
 25 to African countries, the President shall develop and im-

1 plement policies to encourage investment in eligible sub-
2 Saharan African countries, particularly with respect to the
3 following:

4 (1) Infrastructure projects that support, in par-
5 ticular, development of land transport road and rail-
6 road networks and ports, and the continued upgrad-
7 ing and liberalization of the energy and tele-
8 communications sectors.

9 (2) The establishment and expansion of modern
10 information and communication technologies and
11 practices to improve the ability of citizens to re-
12 search and disseminate information relating to,
13 among other things, the economy, education, trade,
14 health, agriculture, the environment, and the media.

15 (3) Agriculture, particularly in processing and
16 capacity enhancement.

17 **SEC. 12. FACILITATION OF TRANSPORTATION.**

18 In order to facilitate and increase trade flows between
19 eligible sub-Saharan African countries and the United
20 States, the President shall foster improved port-to-port
21 and airport-to-airport relationships. These relationships
22 should facilitate—

23 (1) increased coordination between customs
24 services at ports and airports in the United States

1 and such countries in order to reduce time in tran-
2 sit;

3 (2) interaction between customs and technical
4 staff from ports and airports in the United States
5 and such countries in order to increase efficiency
6 and safety procedures and protocols relating to
7 trade;

8 (3) coordination between chambers of com-
9 merce, freight forwarders, customs brokers, and oth-
10 ers involved in consolidating and moving freight; and

11 (4) trade through air service between airports
12 in the United States and such countries by increas-
13 ing frequency and capacity.

14 **SEC. 13. AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

15 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES.—The President
16 shall identify not fewer than 10 eligible sub-Saharan Afri-
17 can countries as having the greatest potential to increase
18 marketable exports of agricultural products to the United
19 States and the greatest need for technical assistance, par-
20 ticularly with respect to pest risk assessments and com-
21 plying with sanitary and phytosanitary rules of the United
22 States.

23 (b) PERSONNEL.—The President shall assign at least
24 20 full-time personnel for the purpose of providing assist-
25 ance to the countries identified under subsection (a) to

1 ensure that exports of agricultural products from those
2 countries meet the requirements of United States law.

3 **SEC. 14. TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AFRICA.**

4 The President shall convene the trade advisory com-
5 mittee on Africa established by Executive Order 11846 of
6 March 27, 1975, under section 135(c) of the Trade Act
7 of 1974, in order to facilitate the goals and objectives of
8 the African Growth and Opportunity Act and this Act, and
9 to maintain ongoing discussions with African trade and
10 agriculture ministries and private sector organizations on
11 issues of mutual concern, including regional and inter-
12 national trade concerns and World Trade Organization
13 issues.

○